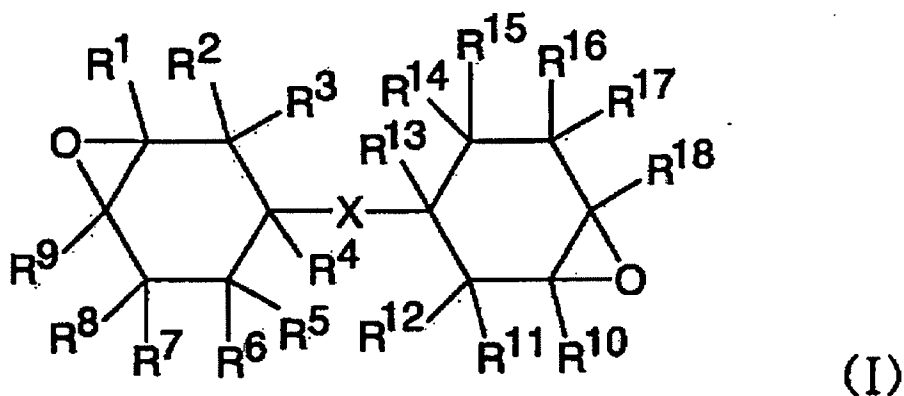


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising a high-purity alicyclic epoxy compound represented by the following general formula (I):



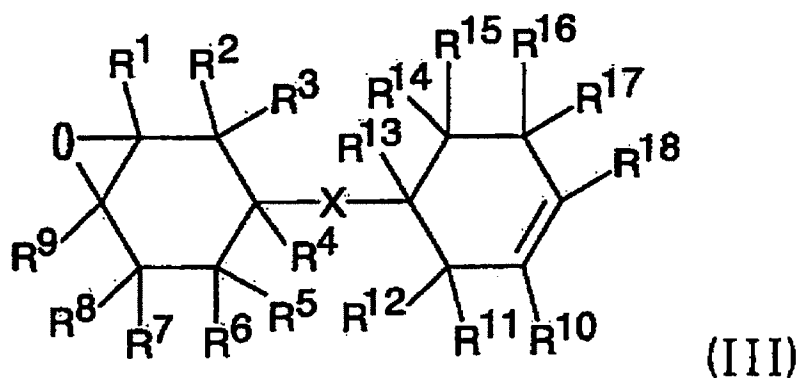
wherein X is a divalent group selected from the group consisting of an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, -SO-, -SO₂-, -CH₂-, -C(CH₃)₂-, -CBr₂-, -C(CBr₃)₂-, and -C(CF₃)₂-; R¹ to R¹⁸ each may be identical or different from each other and are a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a hydrocarbon group that may contain an oxygen atom or halogen atom, or an alkoxy group that may have a substituent,

in which the concentration of high-molecular-weight components having an elution time shorter than that of the alicyclic epoxy compound represented by the general formula (I) in detection by a gel permeation chromatography (hereinafter, GPC) is 5.5% or less with respect to the sum total of all of detected peak areas in terms of the peak area ratio per elution time; and

wherein the alicyclic epoxy compound is produced from a corresponding alicyclic olefin compound with a peracetic acid in a solvent of an ethyl acetate solution.

2. **(Currently Amended)** The composition ~~high purity alicyclic epoxy compound~~ according to claim 1, in which the concentration of impurities having a retention time shorter than that of the alicyclic epoxy compound represented by the above general formula (I) in detection by gas chromatography is 19.5% or less with respect to the sum total of all of detected peak areas in terms of the peak area ratio per retention time.

3. **(Currently Amended)** The composition ~~high purity alicyclic epoxy compound~~ according to claim 1 or claim 2, in which the concentration of reactive intermediate compounds represented by the following general formula (III):

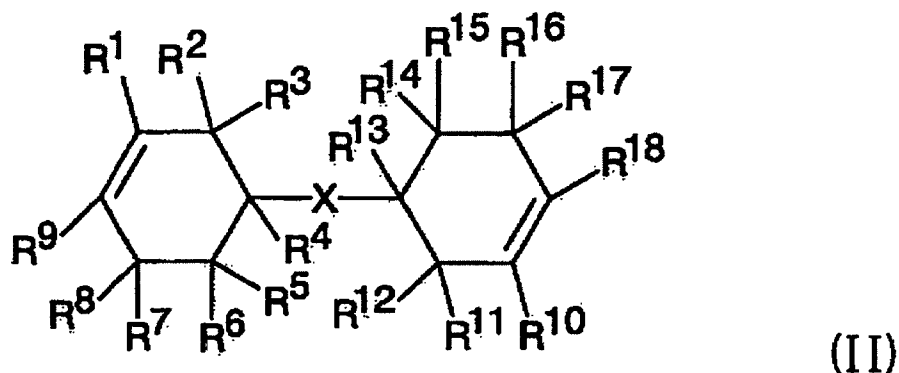


wherein X is a divalent group selected from the group consisting of an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, -SO-, -SO₂-, -CH₂-, -C(CH₃)₂-, -CBr₂-, -C(CBr₃)₂-, and -C(CF₃)₂-; R¹ to R¹⁸ each may be identical or different from each other and are a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a hydrocarbon group that may contain an oxygen atom or halogen atom, or an alkoxy group that may have a substituent,

in detection by gas chromatography is 4.5% or less with respect to the sum total of all of detected peak areas in terms of the peak area ratio per retention time.

4. **(Currently Amended)** The composition ~~high purity alicyclic epoxy compound~~ according to claim 1, wherein a color hue, as measured by American Public Health Association value, (APHA) is 60 or less.

5. **(Currently Amended)** The composition ~~high purity alicyclic epoxy compound~~ according to claim 1, wherein the alicyclic epoxy compound is produced by epoxidizing, with the peracetic an aliphatic percarboxylic acid having substantially no water, ~~[[an]]~~ the alicyclic olefin compound represented by the following general formula (II):

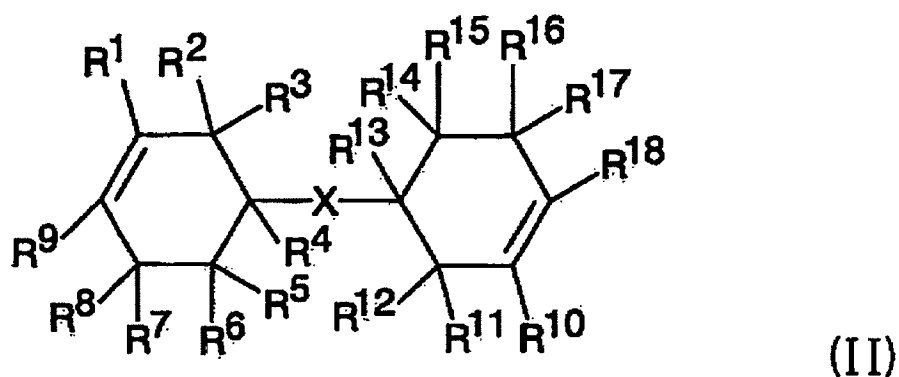


wherein X is a divalent group selected from the group consisting of an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, -SO-, -SO₂-, -CH₂-, -C(CH₃)₂-, -CBr₂-, -C(CBr₃)₂-, and -C(CF₃)₂-; R¹ to R¹⁸ each may be identical or different from each other and are a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a hydrocarbon group that may contain an oxygen atom or halogen atom, or an alkoxy group that may have a substituent,

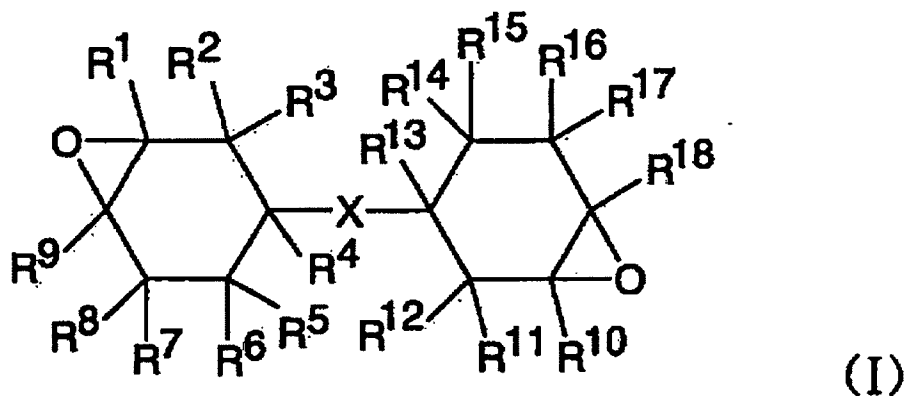
which is 95.0% or more with respect to the sum total of all of detected peak areas in terms of the peak area ratio determined by a gas chromatography.

6. **(Currently Amended)** The composition ~~high-purity alicyclic epoxy compound~~ according to claim 5, wherein the alicyclic epoxy compound is obtained by epoxidation followed by the removal of a solvent and purification by distillation.

7. **(Currently Amended)** A process for the production of a composition comprising a high-purity alicyclic epoxy compound, in which an alicyclic olefin compound represented by the following general formula (II)



is epoxidized with a peracetic ~~an aliphatic percarboxylic~~ acid having substantially no water followed by the removal of a solvent to produce an alicyclic epoxy compound represented by the general formula (I)



wherein in the formulas (I) and (II), X is a divalent group selected from the group consisting of an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, -SO-, -SO₂-, -CH₂-, -C(CH₃)₂-, -CBr₂-, -C(CBr₃)₂-, and -C(CF₃)₂-; R¹ to R¹⁸ each may be identical or different from each other and are a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a hydrocarbon group that may contain an oxygen atom or halogen atom, or an alkoxy group that may have a substituent,

that is in turn subjected to purification by distillation with a [[WFE]] wiped film evaporator to thereby produce the high-purity alicyclic epoxy compound wherein the concentration of high-molecular-weight components having an elution time shorter than that of the alicyclic epoxy compound in detection by GPC analysis is 5.5% or less with respect to the sum total of all of detected peak areas in terms of the peak area ratio per elution time; and

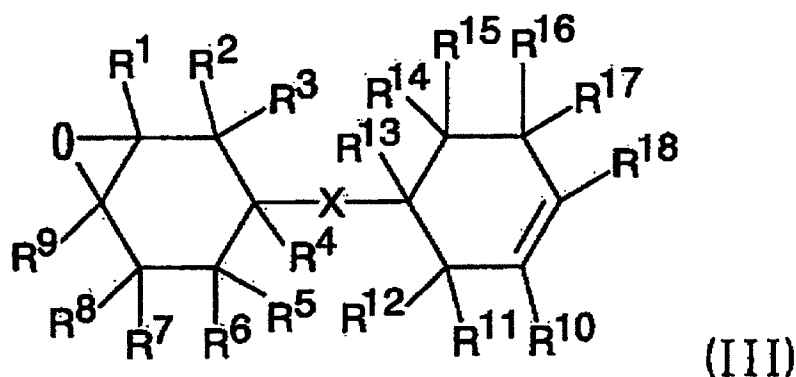
wherein the purification by distillation is carried out at a heating temperature ranging from 180 to 350°C and at a pressure of 50 to 0.01 Torr.

8. **(Currently Amended)** The process for the production of the composition ~~a high-purity alicyclic epoxy compound~~ according to claim 7,

in which the concentration of impurities having a retention time shorter than that of the alicyclic epoxy compound represented by the above general formula (I) in detection by gas chromatography is 19.5% or less with respect to the sum total of all of detected peak areas in terms of the peak area ratio per retention time.

9. **(Currently Amended)** The process for the production of the composition ~~a high-purity alicyclic epoxy compound~~ according to claim 7 or claim 8,

the concentration of reactive intermediate compounds represented by the following general formula (III):



wherein X is a divalent group selected from the group consisting of an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, -SO-, -SO₂-, -CH₂-, -C(CH₃)₂-, -CBr₂-, -C(CBr₃)₂-, and -C(CF₃)₂-; R¹ to R¹⁸ each may be identical or different from each other and are a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a hydrocarbon group that may contain an oxygen atom or halogen atom, or an alkoxy group that may have a substituent,

in detection by gas chromatography is 4.5% or less with respect to the sum total of all of detected peak areas in terms of the peak area ratio per retention time.

10. **(Currently Amended)** The process for the production of the composition ~~a high-purity alicyclic epoxy compound~~ according to claim 7, wherein a color hue, as measured by American Public Health Association value, (APHA) is 60 or less.

11. **(Currently Amended)** The process for the production of the composition ~~a high-purity alicyclic epoxy compound~~ according to claim 7, wherein the aliphatic percarboxylic acid is obtained by the oxidation of a corresponding aldehyde.

12. **(Currently Amended)** The process for the production of the composition ~~a high-purity alicyclic epoxy compound~~ according to claim 7, wherein a water content in the aliphatic percarboxylic acid is 0.8% by weight or less.

13. - 14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) The process for the production of the composition ~~a high-purity alicyclic epoxy compound~~ according to claim 8, wherein the aliphatic percarboxylic acid is an ethyl acetate solution.

16. (Currently Amended) A photo-curable and/or heat-curable epoxy resin composition comprising the composition comprising the epoxy compound according to claim 1; an epoxy group-containing compound optionally added; and a curing agent or a curing catalyst.

17. (Original) A cured product that is obtained by curing the curable epoxy resin composition according to claim 16.

18. (Currently Amended) A transparent material for encapsulation made of the composition comprising the high-purity alicyclic epoxy compound according to claim 1.

19. (Currently Amended) An adhesive made of the composition comprising the high-purity alicyclic epoxy compound according to claim 1.

20. (Previously Presented) The cured product according to claim 17, wherein the cured product is at least one selected from a transparent film, transparent sheet, an insulating material between layers, a coated film, and a paint film.